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Plea Bargain Planned In an Espionage Case

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LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25 (AP) — An aerospace engineer charged with trying to sell United States military secrets to the Soviet Union plans to enter a conditional guilty plea to espionage because he is "very sorry for what he did," his attorney said Monday.

Manuel Araujo, the attorney, indicated that his client's only motivation was contrition and that he had been "going through hell."

In an agreement with the Government, the engineer, Thomas Patrick Cavanagh, 40 years old, reserved his right to appeal any denials of his pretrial motions but agreed to plead guilty to two of four espionage counts in his indictment, Assistant United States Attorney Percy Anderson said.

Mr. Cavanagh was accused of trying to sell the Russians information about the Air Force's Stealth technology, which makes airplanes invisible to radar.

"He is subjecting himself to two possible life terms," said Mr. Anderson, who added that the Government was not recommending a lenient sentence. "There is no deal with respect to sentencing."

The Government agreed to drop one additional count of espionage and one count of possessing an unregistered firearm, Mr. Anderson said.

Mr. Anderson said the plea would probably be entered March 14, when the next pretrial hearing is scheduled.

Mr. Cavanagh, an engineer at the Northrop Corporation when he was arrested in December, has been described by relatives as despondent over the charges against him.

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Ex-Northrop Worker Agrees to Plead Guilty In an Espionage Case

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES—A former Northrop Corp. technician tentatively agreed to plead guilty to two charges that he tried to sell Stealth bomber secrets to the Soviet Union, prosecutors said.

Thomas Patrick Cavanagh, 40 years old, was arrested Dec. 18 by FBI agents posing as Soviet spies.

Mr. Cavanagh is scheduled for a hearing March 14 in Los Angeles federal court. He is expected to enter a conditional guilty plea to two counts of espionage if a third espionage charge and a charge of illegal possession of a machine gun are dropped.

He still faces a life sentence on each espionage charge, however, said Percy Anderson, an assistant U.S. attorney.

Mr. Cavanagh was employed at Northrop's facility in Pico Rivera, a Los Angeles suburb, and allegedly contacted the Soviet consulate in San Francisco and the Soviet Embassy in Washington in an attempt

to sell the classified technical manuals and blueprints for \$25,000.

Mr. Cavanagh was denied bail and remains in custody. Mr. Cavanagh's attorney, Manuel Araujo, couldn't be reached for comment.